

REMARKS

Applicant hereby responds to the Office Action dated February 8, 2005 in the above-referenced patent application. Claims 1-27 are pending in the above-referenced patent application.

Double Patenting

Claims 1, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 26 and 27 were provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 6 and 11-13 of copending Application No. 09/592,598 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,523,696 to Saito et al. (“Saito”). Applicant hereby files a terminal disclaimer to overcome the double patenting rejections.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(e)

Claims 1-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,523,696 to Saito et al (“Saito”). Rejection of the claims is respectfully traversed because Saito does not disclose all of the limitations of the Claims.

Regarding Claim 1, Saito does not disclose providing user interfaces in a first network including first devices interconnected via a communication medium and at least one interface device connecting said first network to at least a second network having interconnected second

devices. Saito does not disclose obtaining graphical and/or textual information from the interface device about the second devices connected to the second network. Nor does Saito disclose obtaining information from said first devices currently connected to the first network wherein the information includes graphical and/or textual information.

In the following Applicant provides arguments in response to each assertion from the Examiner, and respectfully requests that if the claims are once again rejected, the Examiner reply to each argument specifically.

1. Satio does not disclose obtaining graphical and/or textual information

The Examiner has interpreted Saito to disclose first and second network 203 connected by an interface device 210, and obtaining information from devices connected to first and second networks (Fig. 7, col. 21, lines 5-10). However, in Col. 21, lines 50-60, Satio does not disclose: “(b) obtaining information from the interface device about the second devices connected to the second network, said information including graphical and/or textual information”. In col. 21, lines 50-60, Saito states: “In order to make this fact known to the terminals on the second bus 203, information (service information) about the home automation network 212 is also stored in the configuration ROM of the PC 210. First, an information indicating that the home automation service is provided is stored in the configuration ROM at a section 234. Then, as directories dependent on that unit, an information indicating that the air conditioner service is

provided and an information indicating that the microwave oven service is provided are described in the configuration ROM at sections 235 and 236, respectively.” As is clear from the above quoted passage, Saito does not require that the service information in the ROM about A/C 213 or M/O 214 comprises “graphical and/or textual information,” as required by Claim 1. Nowhere does Saito disclose such limitations.

2. Saito does not disclose obtaining generating a user interface description

Saito does not disclose: “(c) generating a user interface description based at least on the obtained information, the user interface description including: (1) at least one graphical and/or textual reference of said first devices that are currently connected to the first network, and (2) at least one graphical and/or textual reference of said second devices that are currently connected to the second network,” as required by Claim 1.

In Fig. 14, and col. 23, lines 12-23 (relied on by the Examiner), Saito only states that FIG. 14 is a diagram showing an exemplary screen display in the case of device specific display in the network system of FIG. 7. As such, Fig. 14 shows **a screen display, not a user interface description** as claimed herein. **As claimed herein, the user interface description is first generated and then in another step, that user interface description is utilized to generate and display one or more user interfaces.** Saito does not disclose such limitations, and the Examiner has not shown where such a user interface description is taught by Saito.

In the present invention the user interface description and the user interface, are two different things, which the Examiner continues to overlook.

On page 10 of the Office Action, paragraph (b), in response to Applicant's prior arguments, the Examiner states that: "In order to generate the graphical user interface in one of the terminal devices connected to the first 1394 BUS network as shown in fig. 14, the terminal devices connected to the 1394 bus have to obtain user interface description of the home automation network devices 212 stored in the configuration ROM (col. 21, lines 40-52 and col. 22, lines 15-26)."

However, it is respectfully submitted that obtaining device information, and generating a user interface description from the device information are two different steps, and that Satio does not disclose generating a **user interface description** as claimed herein.

In col. 21, lines 40-52 (relied on by the Examiner), Satio states: "Now, the PC 210 is also connected to the home automation network 212 so that it also functions as a home automation server. Namely, in the configuration of this embodiment, this PC 210 carries out controls of various devices (the air conditioner 213 and the microwave oven 214) connected to the home automation network 212. In other words, this implies that a terminal connected to the second 1394 bus 203 can control various devices connected to the home automation network 212 by

making access to this PC 210. In order to make this fact known to the terminals on the second 1394 bus 203, information (service information) about the home automation network 212 is also stored in the configuration ROM of the PC 210.”

In col. 22, lines 15-26 (relied on by the Examiner), Satio states: “Here, the information about terminals (the air conditioner 213 and the microwave oven 214) connected to the PC 210 via the home automation network 212 is stored as the terminal specific information at sections 243 and 244 respectively. By referring to this information, it becomes possible for the other 1394 nodes to obtain not only the information on nodes connected to the 1394 bus but also the information on the other nodes (the air conditioner 213 and the microwave oven 214 in this embodiment) connected with the node that is connected to the 1394 bus, both at the 1394 level, so that this is quite effective for integrated management and control of the home network.”

In neither of the above passages (col. 21, lines 40-52 and col. 22, lines 15-26), does Satio disclose generating a user interface description as claimed. The screen display in Fig. 14 is not a user interface description, and Satio does not disclose that a user interface description is generated. It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner has not addressed the distinction between Satio and the claimed limitations. It is noted that even if the Examiner’s statement above is accurate (which Applicant does not believe it to be), still Satio does not disclose a first step of generating **a user interface description** from which, in a second step, a user interface is created and displayed, as required by Claim 1. The Examiner keeps referring to graphical user

interface in fig. 14 of Satio to be the same as a user interface description as claimed herein. It is respectfully submitted that this is inaccurate. Satio does not disclose the intermediate step of generating a user interface description based on which a graphical user interface is then generated according to the present invention. Where does Satio disclose a graphical user interface as claimed herein?

The Examiner cannot simply argue that the claimed graphical user interface description is the same as the graphical user interface in Satio, specially since in step (d), Claim 1 specifies creating and displaying a user interface based on the user interface description.

3. Satio does not disclose obtaining generating a user interface from a user interface description

Satio does not disclose generating a user interface by: “using each reference in a user interface description to access the associated information in each corresponding device; generating the user interface including device data corresponding to each device using the accessed information in each device; and displaying the user interface on said device capable of displaying a user interface,” as required Claim 1.

First, as discussed above, Satio does not disclose generating a user interface description as claimed. Accordingly, by definition Satio does not disclose: “**using each reference in a user interface description ...**,” as required by Claim 1 (emphasis added). The screen display in Fig.

14 is not a user interface description, and Satio does not disclose that a user interface description is generated.

Second, Satio does not disclose: “using each reference in a user interface description to access the associated information in each corresponding device; generating the user interface including device data corresponding to each device using the accessed information in each device,” as required by Claim 1 (emphasis added).

The Examiner has relied on Satio fig. 14, col. 23 lines 12-23, to interpret Satio to disclose such limitations. This interpretation of Satio is respectfully traversed. In col. 13, lines 12-23 (relied on by the Examiner), Satio states: “Next, FIG. 14 shows an exemplary screen display in the case of terminal specific display. Similarly as in the case of service specific display, one icon (i11 to i15) is provided for each terminal provided on the second home network, and the user can make an access to a desired service by specifying that service using a prescribed user interface (by executing click or drag-and-drop on a mouse device, for example). Here, the screen display of terminal specific icons shown in FIG. 14 also displays both services connected to the second IEEE 1394 bus 203 and services connected to the home automation network 212 without distinguishing different network types.”

From the above passage, it is clear that the screen in Fig. 14, is a user interface, and not a user interface description is claimed. There is not a single word in Satio col. 23, lines 12-23 (or

elsewhere) about using a using a reference to access associated information in each corresponding device, as claimed. For example, Satio does not disclose that a reference is used to access device information in the A/C 213 or M/O 214 (Satio, Fig. 1). Indeed, Satio states that service information about A/C 213 and M/O 214 are stored in the ROM of PC 210 (col. 21, lines 40-52), and that other 1394 nodes access this service information in the ROM of PC210 (*not in the devices 213 or 214*) to obtain information on devices 213 and (col. 22, lines 15-26) . Therefore, in Satio there is no step of using a reference in a user interface description “to access the associated information in each corresponding device,” as required by Claim 1.

Further, Satio does not disclose: “generating the user interface including device data corresponding to each device using the accessed information in each device,” as required by Claim 1. As discussed, Saito does not disclose using each reference in the user interface description to access the associated information in each corresponding device. Accordingly, Satio cannot, and does not, generate a user interface that includes device data corresponding to each device “using the accessed information in each device,” as required by Claim 1.

For at least the foregoing reasons, rejection of Claim 1 and all claims dependent therefrom should be withdrawn.

Regarding Claim 4, Saito does not disclose that the interface device includes an address extension table for the second devices and that obtaining information from the interface device

further includes the steps of using the address extension table to access said second devices. In col. 24, line 41 to col. 25, line 3, Saito discusses using port addresses in the PC 210 for the connecting devices 213 and 214, which is different from an address extension table because the port addresses in Saito do not form a table. Nor does Saito teach an extension table that includes IP addresses for the second devices in the second network.

Regarding Claim 5, Saito does not disclose that the interface device is a bridge device. Saito has no mention of a bridge for connecting two different networks. Saito teaches away from using bridges (col. 12, lines 31 - 34 and col. 17, lines 43-57).

Regarding Claim 6, Saito does not disclose displaying one or more user interfaces each based on one of said one or more user interface descriptions, on one or more devices connected to the first network capable of displaying a user interface, for user control of said first and second devices. Saito does not teach generating a user interface description, and does not teach generating a user interface based on such a user interface description.

Regarding Claim 7, Saito does not disclose generating a user interface description as claimed, nor does Saito teach displaying a user interface based on such a user interface description by using each reference in the corresponding user interface description to access the associated information in each device, generating the user interface including device data corresponding to each device using the accessed information in each device, and displaying the

user interface on said device capable of displaying a user interface. As discussed in relation to Claim 1, in Fig. 14 and col. 23, lines 12-23, Saito simply shows generic screens where various network elements are each shown as a box with text therein. There is no disclosure in Saito of using a reference, such as a link, in a user interface description to access the device information of a device connected to the network, and then generate a user interface based on the accessed information for display, as claimed. Saito does not describe a mechanism of generating the various display screens that is even remotely similar to that claimed. If Claim 7 is once again rejected, Applicant respectfully requests that the Patent Office provide detailed explanation of how and where such limitations are disclosed in Saito.

Regarding Claim 8, Saito does not disclose generating a user interface description by associating a hyper-text link with the device information of one or more of said first and second devices, as required by Claim 1. The Examiner interprets Saito, col. 33, line 57 to col. 34, line 8, as disclosing such limitations. However, Saito simply describes a home page that may be reached through a hyperlink from an icon, and when such an icon is clicked the home page of a corresponding device is displayed. Saito only describes that a home page includes icons that when clicked show home page of a corresponding device. Saito does not describe generating a user interface description, as discussed in relation to Claim 1. Saito does not describe that the user interface description includes hyper-text links to information of the devices currently connected to the network. Saito does not disclose that the hyper-text links in the user interface description are used to access information associated with the devices currently connected to the

network in order to generate a user interface for user interaction.

Regarding Claims 9 and 10, Saito does not disclose a user interface description.

Further, Saito does not disclose that the user interface description includes references to device information of the devices currently connected to the network. Nor does Saito teach that the references in the user interface description are to user control interfaces in each corresponding device, wherein the user control interfaces are accessed using the references in the user interface description and shown on a display as a user interface. As discussed in relation to Claim 1, Fig. 14, col. 23, lines 12-23 and col. 25, lines 34-59 in Saito, simply describe a screen display, and does not in anyway disclose that the device information in a device includes a user control interface. Saito does not describe that the actual screen display is stored in a device connected to the network. Saito does not disclose that a device connected to the network has a specific user control interface therein, which is then accessed via a reference in a user interface description to generate a user interface that displays the specific user control interface of that device for user interaction.

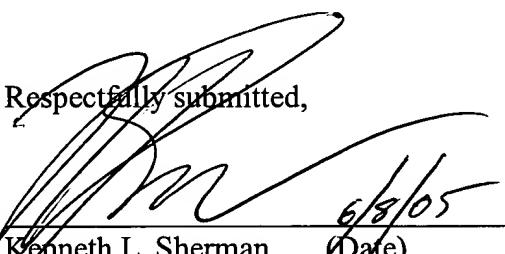
Claims 11-27 were rejected for similar reasons as Claims 1-10, respectively. The rejections are respectfully traversed for at least the reasons provided above in relation to Claims 1-10, respectively. Therefore, for at least these reasons, rejection of Claim 11-20 should be withdrawn. Further, claims 21-27 are allowable for similar reasons.

CONCLUSION

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 01-1960 for any additional fees required for this filing. A duplicate copy of this page is enclosed for that purpose.

For these and other reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of the claims should be withdrawn, and all of the claims be allowed. Accordingly, reexamination, reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested.

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